(e) what steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of poor consumer ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Importers of finished formulations which are covered under DPCO 1987 have applied for price approval.

(c) Fixation of prices is a continuing process. The exact number of imported formulations where the prices have been fixed by the Govt. under DPCO, 1987, is not readily available. However, during the last one year, Government have fixed the prices of about 121 imported formulations.

(d) and (e) The prices of imported formulations are to be fixed giving MAPE of 50% on the landed cost in accordance with the provisions contained in the DPCO, 1987 and it is obligatory for the concerned parties to follow the price. However, no instances of charging higher price in respect of imported finished formulations covered under DPCO, 1987, have come to the notice of the Government.

Duty concession to bulk drugs

2946. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 897 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 1990 and state:

(a) the prices of bulk drugs whose intermediates were given duty concession during the last three years; and

(b) what was the price of each bulk drug before the concession on duty, the present price of each and what is change in each case, percentage-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The prices of Doxycycline have been reduced recently from Rs. 5456/- per kg. to Rs. 4968/- per kg. *inter-alia* taking into consideration customs duty reduction in the intermediate. The price of Chloramphenicol Powder has gone up inspite of duty reduction on L-base. Action is already on to bring down the prices of formulations based on Diclofenac Sodium and other drugs based on duty concession granted in the past.

Overinvoicing by the importers of Dexamethasone intermediates

2947. SHRI ASHOKNATH VERMA:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the producers of Dexamethasone and its salts;

(b) what was the production of each producer during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) when the BICP conducted cost-cum-technical study of this drug and what are the names of units whose production was studied by it;

(d) when was price of this drug determined and what is the present price of this drug and its salts;

(e) whether it is a fact that this drug is produced from intermediate stage;